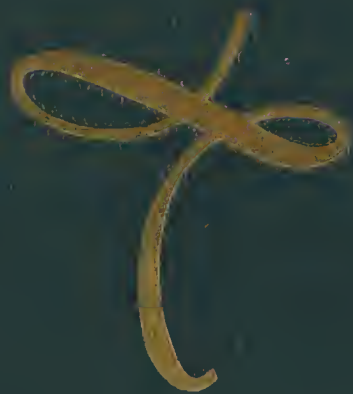


ARUBA



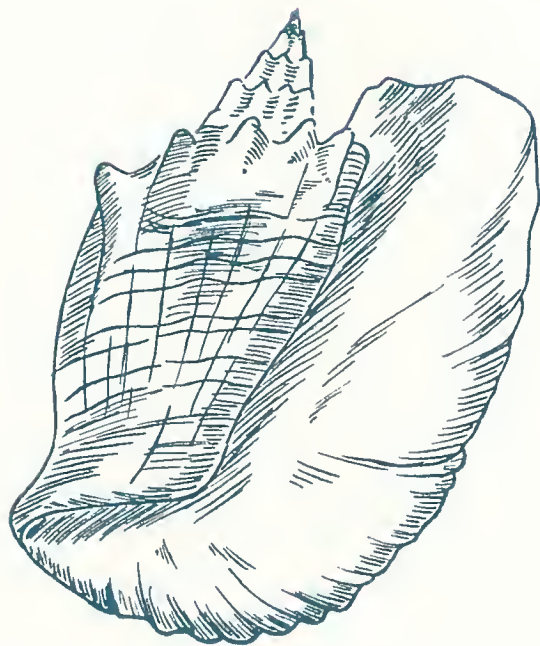




Aruba



ARUBA



brief bits on one
of the blue caribbean's
sunshine isles



A cool breeze, fresh from night's rest whispered lightly over the cunucu. Its gentle touch seemed to stir the little things harbored within the cactus-lined terrain reminding them of day's awakening. Trupials lifted orange-banded necks in acknowledgement; parakeets, screeching shrill salutations, flashed brilliant green feathers against bouncing sun's rays; aquamarine lizards, azure blue iguanas darted up and down roadside arroyos and into low greenery. Even little Sixtro, imbued with the freshness of God-given dawns, dived out of his Dutch-styled cement block house. His youthful dash to the front of the pastel-colored home took in - in quick succession - a chase of chickens, a word to a multi-colored, multi-bred dog,



the death of a scorpion, a check on the rainbarrel below the tiled roof, and a squinting look skyward at the windmill-type electricity generator. On the quaint tiled front porch Sixtro's father drew deeply of the cool air; allowed the warmth of the sun to permeate his pajama-clad body. The comfort of life raced excitingly through his body as he captured the enjoyment of a long, slow stretch. As his body extended, his pajama pants slipped his hips a bit revealing a warm, handsome-toned skin like that of the smiling youth below him.

"Bon dia, papa."

Another sun-drenched day, custom made for easy, delightful Caribbean living, had begun on the isle of Aruba.



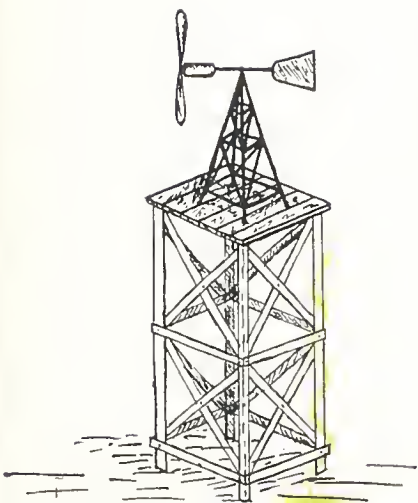
Nestled comfortably in the warm, blue Caribbean waters some 15 miles off the coast of Venezuela is the island of Aruba. As part of the Netherlands Kingdom, it is one of the autonomous islands of the Leeward Group - Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire. Aruba is a relatively small island; its total area of 60 square miles extends 19.6 miles in length and scarcely six miles at its widest point. Situated between 12 degrees, 24 minutes and 12 degrees, 27 minutes north latitude, it is bisected by the 70th meridian. The island is 42 sea miles from its sister isle of Curacao and 15 miles off Paraguana on the Venezuelan coast.

beginning

This mere speck in the Caribbean had an early start historically. Aruba's known history began just seven years after the discovery of the New World when, in August, 1499, Alonso de Ojeda, a navigator who had

earlier sailed with Christopher Columbus, claimed the island for Spain. Not too long after the island's discovery its indian inhabitants were moved to various parts of the Spanish Caribbean empire where their manpower was needed. With the formal Spanish occupation of Aruba in 1527, Governor Juan de Ampues asked that the indians be returned to their native island of Aruba. Charles V, at the time king of Spain, granted the request and, further, issued the mandate that closed Aruba to colonists and protected the indians' homeland.

The indians of the island were the Arawaks and later the Caribes. The tribes were extremes. The Arawaks, said to be the island's first inhabitants, were mild-mannered members of an indian clan from Venezuela, who came here from the nearby coast of South America in small sail boats and canoes. Very little is known of these people other than they were farmers and fishermen who buried their dead in earthen vessels and used stone hatchets and sabers of hardwood. The Arawaks were subjugated by the fierce, warlike, nomadic Caribes. These indians lived by hunting and fighting. They lived in caves and under big boulders. It is not known whether the Arawaks or the Caribes left the undeciphered hieroglyphic inscriptions found on boulders and in caves. Nor is it known which tribe left later generations such names as Bushiribana,

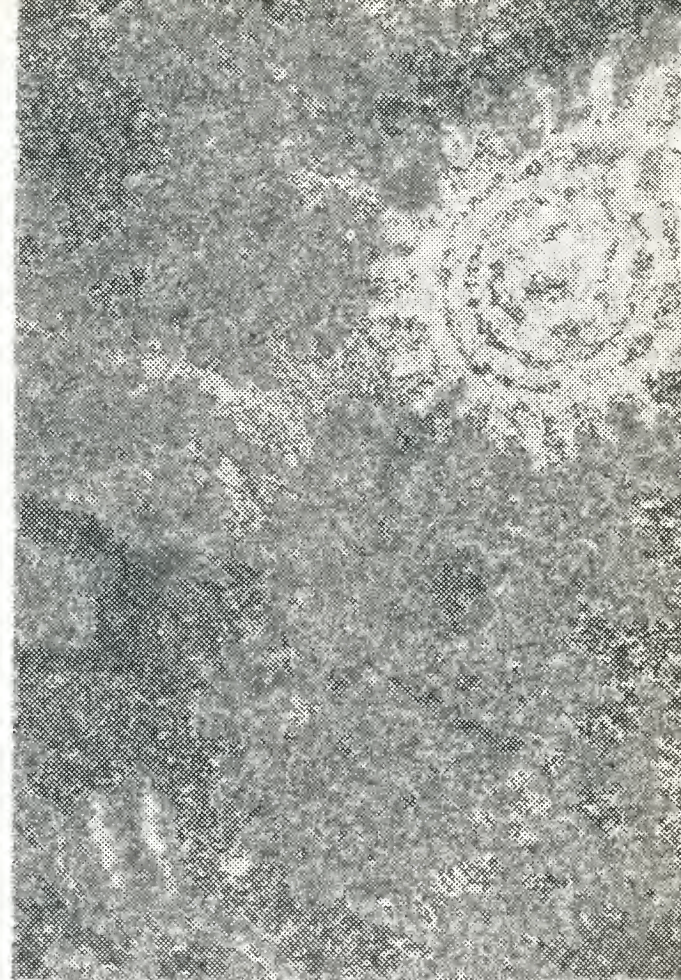


Wadirikiri, Daimari, Andicuri.

Protected by Charles' decree and enforced by a small garrison of royal minions, the indians remained free, the island closed to settlers. The no settler principle was maintained until the middle of the 18th century, when, about 1750, a few chosen persons, mostly from Holland, were permitted to settle in Aruba and engage in trading.

Holland's first interest in the West Indies came as a result of economic strife born of its 80-Year War with Spain. One of the first commodities it lost was salt, ever so important to Holland's large fish (herring) industry. Several Dutch ships sailed to the West Indies and reached the ABC islands about 1580. Salt was found; other commodities were found. And in addition, energetic Dutch crews found that privateering on Spanish vessels returning with rich cargoes gathered in the New World also proved to be quite profitable.

By 1621 the first West Indies Company came into existence under the firm hand of Dutch traders. It was formed to better organize its trade, protect company ships, and to profit from those less precautions. What with galleons and treasure ships piled high with gold and other valuable cargo plying the Caribbean waters, just about everything and anything was fair game not



*indian
hieroglyphics*

only to swaggering cutlass-bearing adventurers flying the Jolly Roger, but also to erstwhile legitimate flag ships bent on harassing competition.

As its operating point the West Indies Company chose St. Martin of the Windward Islands. The island's proximity to the main stream of European-bound traffic made it desirable. The Spanish also recognized this, but in different terms. To them the Dutch in St. Martin represented a real danger to the passage of their Silver Fleet, and so, in 1633, a strong Spanish fleet and 1000 foot soldiers drove the Dutch off the island. In retaliation, but more important, in search of a base from which to operate, a West Indies Company expedition of four ships with an occupation force of 250 men beat down on Curacao in 1634. The command led by Johannes van Walbeeck chased Spanish Commander Don Alonso Lopes de Morla, his compatriots and some 375 indians off the island. Immediately Fort Amsterdam was constructed at the harbor entrance; it stands today, over three centuries later, mute evidence of the plundering days of the buccaneer and privateer.

Two years later the West Indies Company took over Aruba and Bonaire marking the beginning of Dutch authority in the three Leeward Islands. Actually, it was not until January, 1792, that the Republic of the United Netherlands (as Holland was known then) took

full authority of the islands. Up to that time the West Indies Companies were in control. Except for brief periods around the turn of the 19th century when both French and English interests took over the islands, Aruba and its sister islands have always been part of the Netherlands Kingdom.

In 1789, the year the French Revolution erupted, French ships attacked Willemstad, Curacao's capital. The island capitulated and was in French hands. The stay was very brief, however; British man-of-wars chased the French out and took over. Aruba had her share of burnt gun powder the same year with an attack on what is now Oranjestad. The 1802 Peace of Amiens restored Dutch rule and returned Aruba and the Leeward Islands to the Netherlands.

Peace was brief for the tiny isle of Aruba. In 1803, England, France and Holland went at it again. The far-reaching effect of the European conflict brought a heavy English bombardment down upon Aruba, and

Oranjestad

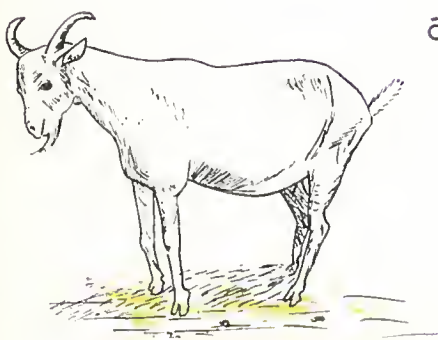


in 1804 British troops occupied the island. The following year Dutch retaliation under the leadership of Louis Brion, who later became one of Simon Bolivar's most devoted commanders during the conquistador's sorties through South America, swept the British off the island. The plan originally was to use the scorched earth policy on Aruba and for-ever-more render it useless to the British or any other attacking forces. The island's populace pleaded with Governor Changuion of Curacao and he desisted.

The British continued to raid Aruba, stealing horses and goats. In 1806 the British again took over Aruba and held it until 1814 when Aruba and the Leeward Islands were returned to Dutch rule, thus ending any further change of rule. Aruba has since remained part of the Netherlands.

name

It was shortly after the British returned the three Leeward Islands to Dutch administration in 1816 that the name Aruba became widely recognized. Although the exact source of the island's name "Aruba" is not known, several theories have been advanced. Some believe the name was derived from the Spanish "oro-hubo" which translates to "there was gold." On many an old navigation map can be found the island de-



signated as "Oruba" or "Orubo." In fact, until recent years many staid geographies referred to this tiny Caribbean speck as "Oruba."

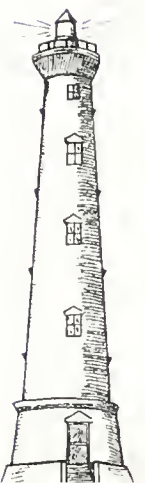
Some historians claim that the name comes from the Venezuelan Guarani Indian word "Oirubae" which means "guide or companion." Another theory advanced is that the island's name comes from its first settlers, the Arawaks.

language

Because of the cosmopolitan composition of the population and the polyglot influences over 500 years, the native tongue, Papiamentu, reflects many languages. Much like the name "Aruba," there are many pros and cons to the true development of Papiamentu. It is said to be basically derived from Portuguese and Spanish. Easily discernable are words of indian, Dutch, French and English origin. Most prevalent are Spanish influences laid to the close ties Aruba has maintained with the Venezuelan mainland for many years. While Papiamentu is spoken in Bonaire and Curacao, it differs slightly. Spanish is not as pronounced in the Papiamentu of the two sister islands as it is in Aruba.

Papiamentu is spoken only on the ABC islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

The official language of Aruba is Dutch. Spanish



and English are widely spoken as is, of course, Papiamento. The native tongue, however, is not used in school. Dutch, English, Spanish and French are the languages studied. Nevertheless, once the school bell rings adjourning school, the children slip quietly and unobtrusively into Papiamento.

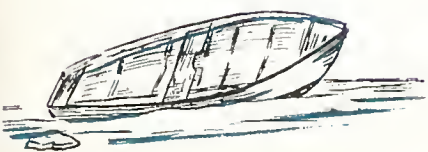
In addition to the more commonly used tongues, also to be heard in Aruba are Turkish, Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Hindustani, German, Portuguese, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Italian.

Aruba is truly a polyglot locale.

government

Government in Aruba has had a number of forms. Under Spanish rule during the 16th century it was autocratic. With the seizure of Aruba by the West Indies Company in 1634, the administration of island life was handled by the trading company through a director. The first director appointed by the company's Board of Directors was Johannes van Walbeeck, the man who drove the Spanish off the island. He chose as his seat of administration the island of Curacao. It was a choice that remained until recent years when Aruba attained a large measure of autonomy in municipal affairs.

The second director to handle administration of





Paardenbaai

ABC policies was the notable Peter Stuyvesant, appointed in 1642. He went to Holland in 1644 after losing a leg in sea action against the Spanish at St. Martin. While in Holland he argued for the union of the ABC islands and New Netherland (New York) under one administration. He proved the need of his plan when, in the same year, he returned to Curacao and had to send Dutch troops from these islands to the island of Manhattan to protect the Dutch settlers there from marauding indians. In 1646 his plan was adopted and the West Indies Company united the ABC islands and New Netherland (New York) under the directorship of Stuyvesant with headquarters in New York. Under Stuyvesant's administration of New World possessions, commerce flourished. The union ended abruptly when the British took over New Netherland (New York) in 1664 during the second of the Three Dutch Wars with England.

Ten years later the original West Indies Company whose charter was dated 1621 dissolved. West Indies trade was no longer considered lucrative. A second West Indian Company was immediately formed, however, and the director-type administration held forth over Aruba. The second company controlled island administration until 1792 when it too dissolved and turned over all its authority to the Republic of the United Netherlands. The director at the time was Johan de Veer (a name still prominent in Aruba) who remained administrator of the Netherlands possession until his resignation in 1796.

The first governor of the ABC islands was Jan Jacob Beaujon (another name still very prominent in Aruba). The second was Johan Rudolf Lauffer who succeeded Beaujon in December, 1796, four months after the first governor had been appointed.

Aruba and Bonaire were administered by "commandeurs" (commanders). The commanders' seat in Aruba was located at Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay), located in today's Sabaneta. During Lauffer's administration in 1797 the official seat was moved to the other end of the island at Paardenbaai (Horses Bay), now known as Oranjestad. Fort Zoutman, which still stands, was built to protect the



*Willem III
tower*

new seat of government against French and English attacks. The various offices of administration were located within the fort's walls. It wasn't until 1911 when a new government building was made available that the offices were moved out of the fort.

An 1865 law contained the first statutory structure of government for the Colony of Curacao. It created two councils to assist the government in administration: the Government Council, executive power comprised of five members, and the Colonial Council, legislative body made up of eight members plus the Government Council.

Shortly after her ascension to the throne, Queen Wilhelmina sought improvements in the structure of the colonial system. One of the first moves made was to separate the Government Council from the Colonial Council. The amendment stipulated 13 members for the Colonial Council, all appointed by the governor.

In 1936 the Colonial Council was dissolved; its replacement was the Staten van Curacao (States of Curacao, or as it is popularly known, Staten). Also, with the dissolution of the Colonial Council usage of the undesirable term "colony" was discontinued and the leeward and windward possessions of the Netherlands became known as the Territory of Curacao. The same year, 1936, suffrage came to the populace of the islands. Of the 15 Staten members,





10 were to be elected by the people. This was the first instance representative voting was allowed in any of the Netherlands possessions in the West Indies.

An attempt to have absolute suffrage, a membership increase in this legislative body, and a decentralization of the islands' administration under a more autonomous system of government gained impetus a few years later during the governorship of P. Kasteel. The proposals fell upon an unsympathetic Parliament in Holland inasmuch as the Crown was experiencing numerous difficulties at the time with Indonesia.

Following World War II the Curacao government moved toward autonomy, while Aruba Staten members initiated their campaign for separation from Curacao. These actions were based on the war-time proclamation made by doughty Dutch Queen Wilhelmina from her London headquarters in February, 1942, to the effect that following the war there would be a new united kingdom with Holland and the territories as the component parts, each with the form of government desired by its people.

In 1948 a new constitution for this territory was promulgated by royal decree. It increased the legislative

council from 15 to 21 members, all to be elected by the people giving the territory absolute suffrage. Aruba elected eight, Curacao eight, Bonaire two and the Windward Islands three.

The 1948 constitution also changed the name of the territory. Known for centuries as the Netherlands West Indies, it became the Netherlands Antilles.

A transitory step to complete autonomy for the entire territory and also the individual islands came in July, 1951, when, by royal decree, a "temporary constitution" was promulgated. This constitution increased the legislative council to 22 whereby Curacao elected 12 representatives to the Staten while Aruba elected eight, Bonaire one and the Windward Islands one.

Also promulgated the same year was the Island Regulation that created island councils. The regulation created legislative bodies for each island to administer many of the island's public functions previously handled by the Curacao Government. Elected by popular vote, Aruba's Island Council has 21 members. The lieutenant governor (gezaghebber), appointed by the Crown for a period of six years, is chairman of the council.

Dec. 15, 1954, the final step was taken and complete autonomy



came to the islands. The "temporary constitution" was made law and Aruba and other Netherlands territories became partners in a United Netherlands Kingdom. December 15 is known as Kingdom Day, and is recognized as an official holiday.

livelihood

Aruba's gainful economic life has known periods of dire extremes. There have been occasions of near famine as a result of next-to-no means of support; periods of quick, short-lived prosperity; and, today, a stable economy based primarily on oil refining.

Under the Spanish regime during Aruba's recorded beginning, the indians, under the direction of Governor J. de Ampues, busied themselves with the exporting of campeche wood or logwood. The wood, which grew in abundance on Aruba centuries ago, yielded a red dye used in the textile industry. Over a century of Spanish rule transformed Aruba into a large rancho. Goats, sheep, dogs, burros, cattle and pigs were brought to the island, bred and allowed to roam freely over the countryside. The animals' freedom undoubtedly came during the periods the island went uninhabited. The indians very often left Aruba for the Venezuelan mainland, and, it is reported, when the Dutch took over Curacao, Aruba was uninhabited. The indians began to return to Aruba under Dutch rule.

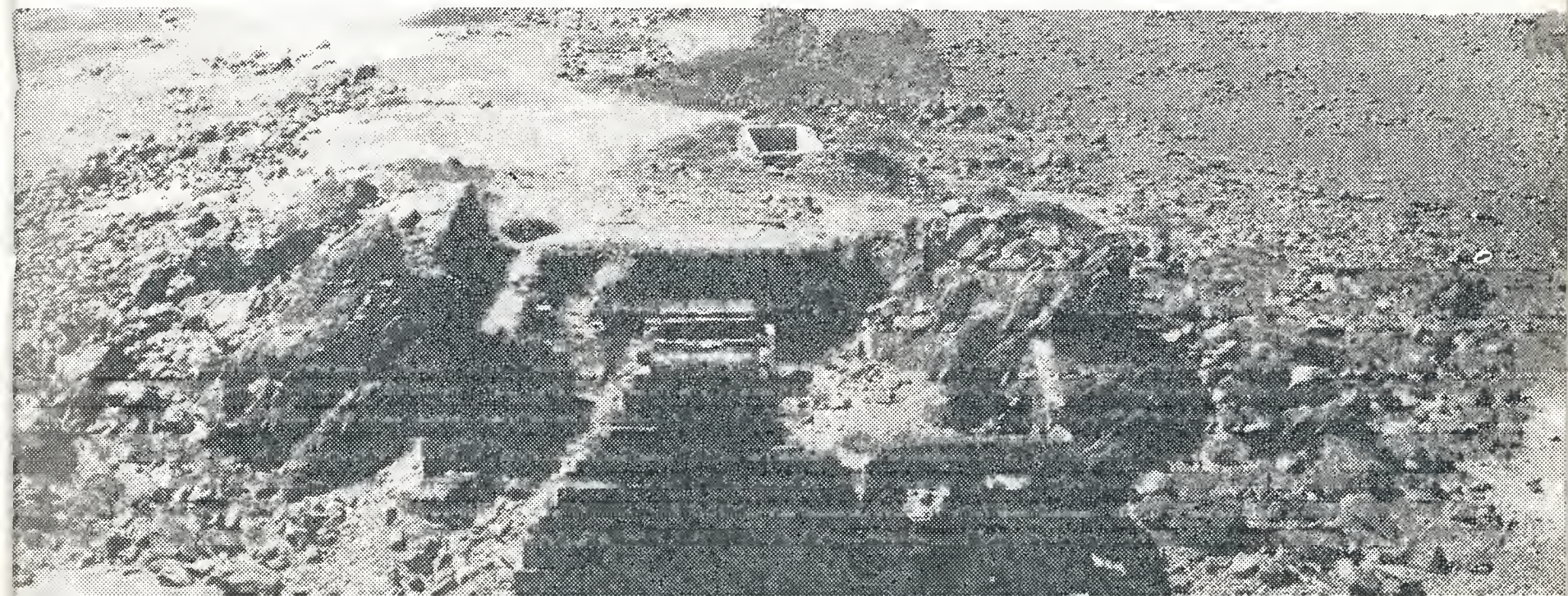


Means to develop an economic structure on the ABC islands were proposed by the first Dutch commander, Van Walbeeck. Aruba was to be the horse-breeding farm, Curacao the plantation island, and Bonaire dedicated to the salt industry. Horses were raised on Aruba by the indians, and used for military purposes against, primarily, the Spanish. On one of his ventures against the Spanish in Venezuela, Stuyvesant first stopped at Aruba where he picked up 100 horses for his cavalry. The horses were usually shipped from the bay at Oranjestad, hence the name Paardenbaai (Horses' Bay).

Until the mid-18th century when a few privileged persons were allowed to settle in Aruba for trading purposes, the island's economic life was little more than forceable trading of sheep and goats with marauding French, Spanish, English and pirate ships.

Aruba's history is void of slave trading. While Curacao grew to be a leading market in this trade, Aruba never became a point of exchange. It wasn't until

mine ruins



the Emancipation of 1683 that Negroes came to Aruba, and then to seek employment.

The first mention of gold in Aruba occurred in 1725 when rumors of hidden wealth reached the West Indies Company's home office in Holland. Quickly dispatched was Paulus Printz, a European miner. Although he never produced any gold, he reported the presence of metallic ores. Just about a century later, gold was found in Aruba. Quite naturally, legend covers the incident. Accordingly, a 12-year-old youth tending his father's sheep was stuck by a cactus needle while crossing a valley called Lagabai, near Rooi Fluit. The lad bent down to remove the piercing barb, and in so doing spied a shining object. It turned out to be gold.

It was alluvial gold and nothing much was done about its recovery other than the island's residents panning the streams. Between 1832 and 1846 some gold was extracted from deep quarries. In 1854 the first exclusive rights to exploit minerals of Aruba were granted. Nothing much was done, however, which was pretty much the case until Jan van der Biest, an Aruban, acting as superintendent of the Bushiribana works of the Aruba Island Gold Mining Co., Ltd. of London, extracted 2075 ounces of gold. The project died in 1882 when costs became prohibitive. Another company started in 1897 and failed shortly thereafter. It wasn't





until the Aruba Goud Maatschappij got underway in 1908 that profitable mining was conducted. It continued until World War I cut off its supply of necessary materials. Gold was never mined successfully in Aruba again. Attempts were made to recover the precious material as late as 1947, but to no avail.

divi-divi

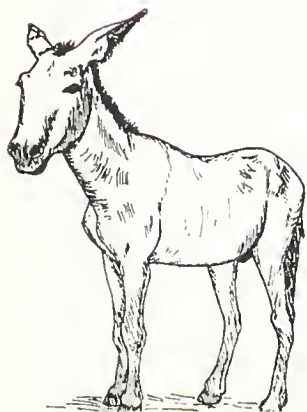
One of the most profitable enterprises in Aruba's pre-petroleum days was the mining of phosphate. During the period of 1881 to 1914 the Aruba Phosphaat Maatschappij exported one million tons of phosphate. It was originally found in 1874 at Cerro Colorado (Colorado Point), and today remnants of equipment used, bent, broken and rust covered, remain in some of the large pits behind Lago Hospital. The industry ceased operation in 1914 when the price of phosphate on the world market decreased.

An industry that has had a century of ups and downs is the growing of aloe. The aloe is a small

plant that grows in splaylike fashion relatively close (18 inches) to the ground. The plant produces aloin, a cathartic ingredient said to have no synthetic superior. With climatic conditions perfect for the plant's growth, the output of Aruba aloin was much higher than other varieties. Aruban aloe has an aloin content of 22 per cent compared to a high of 15 per cent for the best aloe grown elsewhere. The brutal price fluctuations on the world market forced many an aloe grower to discontinue operations. Many workers left the fields when the oil companies arrived and paid higher wages. Consequently, numerous aloe fields have been abandoned.

The aloe is not a native plant. It was brought here in 1861 from the island of Socotra off the west coast of Africa.

Oil brought prosperity to Aruba and has been the basis of a strong economy for over a quarter of a century. The Arend Petroleum Maatschappij, a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell, established itself on the western end of the island. A small refinery, it maintained operations until January, 1953. At the opposite end of the island exists a giant in the oil world, Lago Oil & Transport Co., Ltd. Strictly a refinery, it had its start in the late Twenties. Originally a subsidiary of the Standard Oil Co. (Indiana), it was purchased in 1932 by the Standard Oil Co. (N.J.).



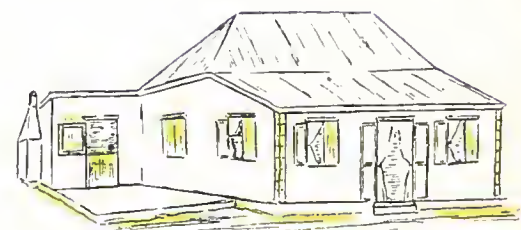
Other means of livelihood have been undertaken by the inhabitants of Aruba, all with varying degrees of success. Vocations over the years included making rope and straw hats, growing peanuts, shipbuilding, cultivating the one-way divi-divi tree for its pods used in the preparation of tannic acid, cabinet making, fishing and sailing.

Recently, endeavors have been made to capture some of the tourist flow into the Caribbean.

people

Aruba's population today is slightly more than 56,000. Its largest period of growth has been the last 25 years abetted by the influx of workers from other islands who brought their many skills to the refineries. The peoples of Aruba are of many backgrounds. They came from far and wide and settled here as the Caribbean seemed magnetic at the turn of the 20th century gathering a conglomeration of the world's faces. It is estimated that Aruba has in its midst over 42 nationalities.

The peoples of the island are followers of many religions. The majority are Roman Catholic; the majority of others Protestant. Although without a formal place of worship, but with followers are Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and ethics of Confucianism. The oldest



Protestant sect on the island is the Protestant Church of Aruba in Oranjestad which is affiliated with the Dutch Reformed Church. It was established in 1797. Catholicism came to the island with Franciscan monks who started visiting Aruba in the 16th century. Organized Roman Catholic worship began in 1842.

To care for their families, the residents of Aruba are tended by 51 doctors and 12 dentists. Of this number, eight doctors are specialists and 21 general practitioners either privately employed or in the employ of the government. Twenty-two doctors are employed by Lago and work either in Lago's Employee Medical Center or the Lago Hospital. This hospital is for employees and their families. The island's public hospital is San Pedro, located in Oranjestad. Thanks to the arid nature of Aruba and blessed by constant trade winds and brilliant sun, tropical diseases are practically unknown. Aruba ranks high in



health; is proud of a living standard second to none in the Caribbean.

Of the more than 56,000 that inhabit the island, over 23 per cent of the population are school children. Attendance is not compulsory. There are 10 public, 23 Roman Catholic and three Protestant schools.

traffic

Air and sea traffic with Aruba is tremendous. The island's air needs are serviced by the Royal Dutch Airlines from the modern terminal, Beatrix Airport. Connections are available daily for just about any part of the free world. The sea lanes to and from Aruba are dotted with passenger liners, freighters, naval craft, Antarctic-bound whalers, lumbering ocean-going tugs, mammoth tankers and pristine yachts guided by adventure-seeking 'round the world helmsmen.

Aruba has two harbors: San Nicolas Harbor operated by Lago to handle tanker traffic, and Oranjestad Harbor (Paardenbaai) where all freighters and passenger liners berth. With Eagle Pier (Druif Baai), an oil terminal, Aruba's harbor facilities handle well over 4500 ships a year. Constant tanker traffic and the island's location at the junction of the Panama Canal shipping lanes has, at one time or another, brought just about every seagoing flag into one of Aruba's harbors. Shipping companies whose crafts regularly



call at Aruba (excluding tankers) are the Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., Grace Line, Alcoa Line, Three Bays Line, Peninsula & Occidental Line and the Moore McCormick Line.

Buses, stationwagons, taxis, trucks and private cars number well over 6000. Aruba has over 100 miles of asphalt roads and about 90 miles of gravel roads, exclusive of paved streets in towns.

agencies

Aruba has both a Chamber of Commerce and an Aruba Merchants' Association. Subscribing businesses to the C of C number over 580, while the membership of the Merchants' Association is over 100.

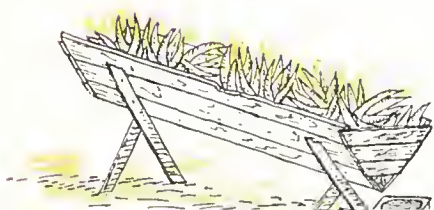
Consular representation in Aruba is maintained by 21 countries.

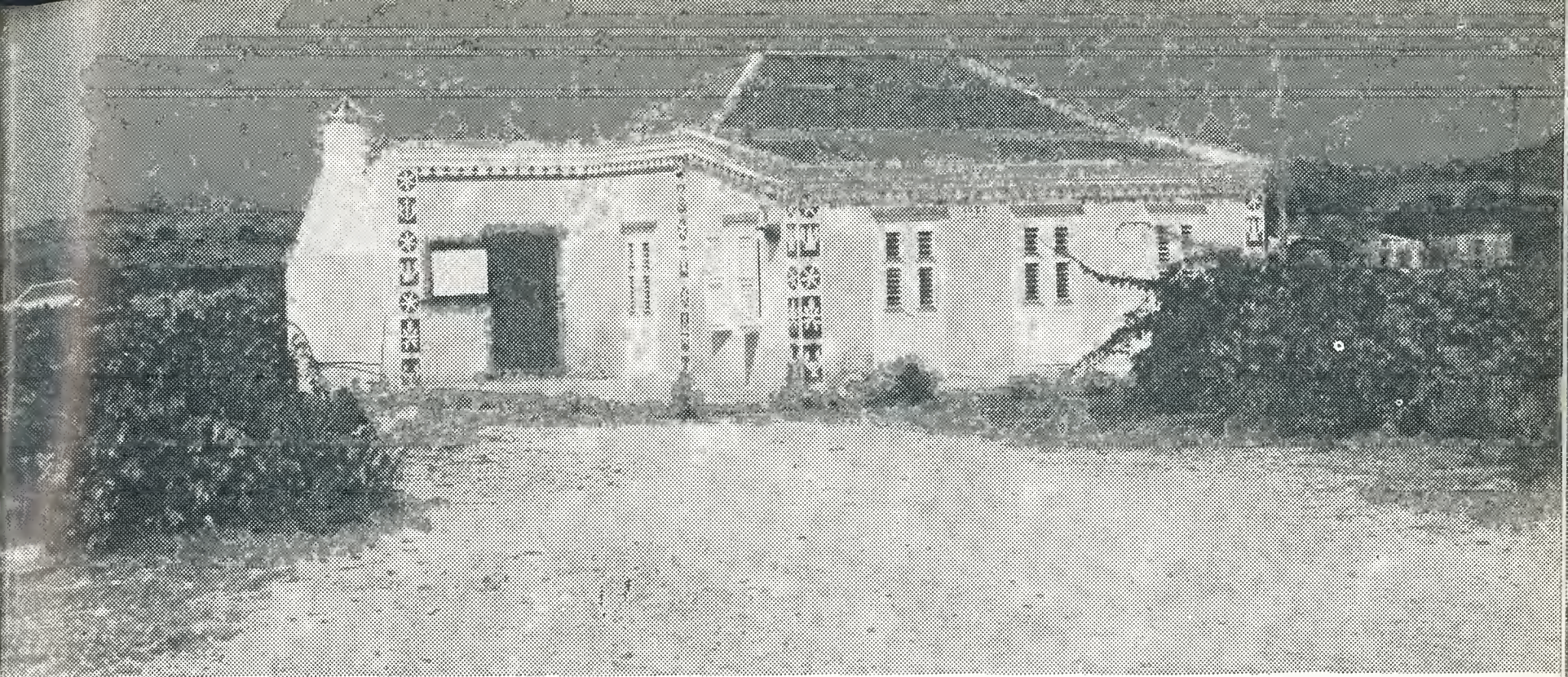
Eight newspapers serve the readers of Aruba. They are published daily, weekly and fortnightly in Dutch, English, Papiamento and Spanish.

The international service clubs - Rotary and Lions - are active in Aruba.

climate

Those who refer to Aruba as the "Island of Eternal Spring" are not too far afield. The temperature ranges from 73 to 92 degrees Fahrenheit giving Aruba an approximate mean temperature of 83 degrees. The





home

mean humidity is 73, and the annual rainfall averages 19.62 inches.

Aruba's sun ratio is 90 per cent. Cooling trade winds fan the island with an average 20-knot velocity almost all year. The warmest months range from mid-August to mid-October; the coolest December, January and February.

currency

As might be imagined, an island frequented in early times by ships of many nations and pirates of many ways had many forms of currency. It wasn't until 1901 that currency was regulated in the Curacao Territory. Currency regulation was stipulated in an 1865 mandate, but not put into effect until 36 years later. Netherlands currency was used until 1943 when Curacao currency was put into circulation. It later be-

came Netherlands Antilles currency with coin denominations of 1 and 2½ cents in bronze and 5 (square), 10 and 25 cents and Fls. 1 and Fls. 2.50 in silver. Paper denominations are Fls. 2.50, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100, 250, 500 and 1000.

lago

The largest single employer is the Lago Oil & Transport Co., Ltd. A giant of the oil world, it employs over 6200 men and women. No one would have dared guess that from the modest beginning of 1928 would rise one of the world's largest refining installations. Lago's history goes back a bit further than 1928. It was in 1924 that the first search was initiated to find a suitable shipping terminal in the Paraguana-Curacao-



Aruba triangle to handle the oil produced at Maracaibo, Venezuela. Aruba was chosen and a channel was dredged in 1925. Two years later it was decided to build a refinery in Aruba to process Venezuelan crude. Construction followed in 1928. January 29, 1929 is recorded as the first day the stills were operated. The refinery, staffed by people of the Caribbean and other far-flung places, grew at a rapid rate. Today, it processes an average of over 400,000 barrels of crude daily through facilities that represent about one-third of the overseas refining capacity of Standard Oil Co. (N.J.).

Following the original installation which took place between 1928 and 1931 when low pressure stills, combination cracking coils and visbreakers, utilities, pump-houses, tankage and pipelines were built, Lago maintained a steady and rapid growth. Highlighting a few

refinery



of the major developments over the years: Lago in 1935-1936 added a crude still, cracking units were remodeled and more tankage was built; the west entrance of San Nicolas Harbor was cut through the reef in 1937, and ships no longer had to turn around in the narrow harbor; in 1938 and 1939, over 22 million dollars were expended in the addition of stills, reconstruction of units, construction of gasoline spheroids and the increase of docking facilities.

San Nicolas Harbor has kept pace with its shore-side brother. As the refinery grew, so did the harbor. From a small pier in a narrow port with one entrance, it has grown to one of the world's largest harbors in tonnage handled. It is complete with modern facilities capable of handling today's tanker goliaths. San Nicolas Harbor has 10 berths, deeply dredged channels and two entrances.

Lago's crude oil comes from a huge inland "sea" called Lake Maracaibo. Of all the strange places where oil is found, Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela is one of the strangest. The lake is nearly 100 miles long and 50 miles across. Beneath its surface hundreds of deep oil wells have been driven. Derricks dot the lake's surface. Many of these units supply Lago's crude.

During World War II Lago's stills gulped in crude and fed back refined products to a constant stream of naval craft, to needy Latin American markets, and



*Oranjestad
market*

into one out of every 16 barrels of aviation gasoline used by the Allies.

When Abadan experienced its temporary shutdown, Lago's tremendous capacity came to life to the aid of the oil user. And again, with the Suez Canal crisis, Lago threw itself into supplying as much oil as possible to depleted areas.

Lago's major products are motor gas, aviation gas, tractor fuel, propane, jet fuel, kerosene, heating oil, light and heavy diesel and fuel oil.

Much of Aruba's past is lost in antiquity; dates are questioned, salient facts challenged. Where disagreement arises, much of it must be laid to Aruba's unrecorded past. The information in this booklet was gathered from the most accurate sources available. It is void of conjecture.



three pals



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